

Public Policy Memo

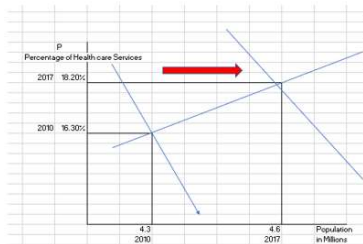
Addressing Market Failures and Healthcare Disparities

TESC MPA Application

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Introduction: Economic theories allows us to measure the efficiency of providing healthcare to immigrants. As the immigrant population increases in the United States is more effective to increase healthcare access then by limiting the resource.¹

Applied Situation: Not providing healthcare to immigrants has a “spillover effect” to the community at large: During a public healthcare crisis such as COVID-19 communities were unable to “open” until levels reached acceptable controlled levels. The “controlled levels” weren’t obtainable in communities with high immigrant levels.



Supply/Demand Graph healthcare services is influenced by the population size. A shifting Demand Curve reflects the increase of population and the need for more services.

Solving Problems: Through Economic graphs tracking of an uncontrolled public emergency of an invisible group what interventions can be implemented to create a controlled situation.

Supply & Demand Graph Represents: Barriers to healthcare access, as indicated in the disparities graph, can be represented as a shift in the demand curve. Certain populations, such as undocumented immigrants, may face barriers of accessibility to healthcare leading to decreased demand at higher prices.²

Demand Side: The demand for healthcare services is influenced by the population size and composition. The increase in the non-elderly population from 4.3 million in 2010 to 4.6 million in 2017 suggests a potential increase in the overall demand for healthcare services.³

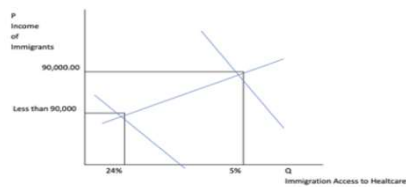
¹ Yen, Wei (2019, May) OFM Health Care Research Center Washington State Health Services Research Project “Health Coverage Disparities Associated with Immigration Status in Washington State’s Non-Elderly Adult Population: 2010-17” <https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/dataresearch/researchbriefs/brief091.pdf>

² NIH National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information. (n.d.). Priority Setting in Health: A Political Economy “Immigration as a Social Determinant of Health: Proceedings of a Workshop” <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK535940/>

³ Kaiser Family Foundation. (n.d.) (2023, September) “Key facts on health coverage of immigrants” <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/fact-sheet/key-facts-on-health-coverage-of-immigrants/>

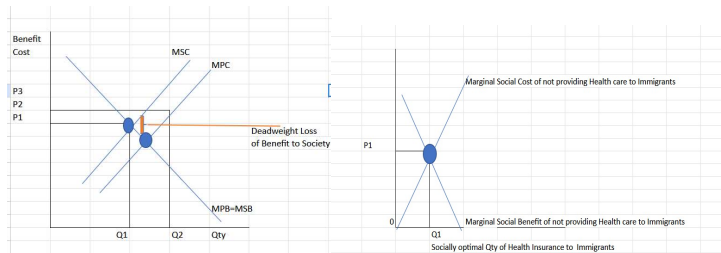
Supply Side: The supply of healthcare services is influenced by the capacity of healthcare providers and organizations. Organizational structures and mission success can affect the supply side by influencing how efficiently and effectively healthcare services are provided.

Overall increase in the demand for healthcare services, potentially shifting the demand curve to the left as population increases.



Market Failures Analysis: By not providing healthcare to immigrants the cost of the public at large to consume healthcare is more expensive to the public at large in addition effecting the overall health of every individual within the society. As with COVID by not stabilizing the health of immigrants the health of the society not being “open” interfered with free-market balance.

The Cost of Immigrants consuming healthcare & Spillover to the Public



Conclusion: Through the economic graphs and theory of mark failure it is shown that the society by acting on self-interest incurs too many costs: monetarily and physical health as seen in COVID. Increasing access will decrease the overall cost of healthcare to all members residences and immigrants creating a healthy and efficient society.

References

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